

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Debbie Herbert at
334/242-8609

Alabama October Unemployment Rate Up Slightly

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, November 18, 2005 Alabama's unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in October edged up from the September jobless rate of 4.1 percent, but was well below the 5.5 percent recorded a year ago. October's rate represents 98,354 unemployed persons, compared to 88,555 last month, and 118,735 in October 2004.

"Although October's rate is slightly higher, the Alabama rate has been below the national unemployment rate for nine consecutive months," says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

The comparable national unemployment rate for October was 5.0 percent, a slight decline from the September rate of 5.1 percent, and below the year-ago rate of 5.5 percent.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 20,300 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+6,800); followed by trade, transportation and utilities (+5,600); educational and health services (+3,400); manufacturing (+3,100); and leisure and hospitality (+1,900). Losses were recorded in financial activities (-500) and other services (-500).

County unemployment rates in October ranged from a low of 3.1 percent in Shelby county to 10.6 percent in Bullock County.

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" and follow prompts.